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[Strategies for identification of secretases implicated in Alzheimer's disease].

[Article in French]

Marambaud P, Chevallier N, Lopez-Perez E, Drouot C, Vizzanova J, Fulcrand P, Martinez J, Wilk S, Checler F.

IPMC du CNRS, UPR411, Valbonne, France.

In Alzheimer's disease, cortical areas of affected patients are invaded by extracellular proteinous deposits called senile plaques, the main component of which is called amyloid beta-peptide or A beta. This peptide derives from the proteolytic attack of a precursor, the beta-amyloid precursor protein, by two enzymes called beta- and gamma-secretases. Alternatively, beta APP can be cleaved by an additional activity named alpha-secretase that occurs inside the A beta sequence, thereby precluding its formation, and concomitantly liberating a secreted fragment, namely APP alpha. Therefore, secretases seem to play a key role in the control of physiological and potentially pathogenic beta APP catabolites and could be envisioned as possible therapeutic targets in Alzheimer's disease. Here, we describe possible experimental approaches to identify such proteolytic activities.

Publication Types:

- Review
- Review, tutorial

PMID: 9754260 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]